




Youth Agenda: Michigan Shepherds Weekend
An annual conference presented by the Michigan Sheep Producers Association
 January 9-11, 2026 | Crowne Plaza Hotel
 925 S. Creyts Rd., Lansing, MI 48917

Friday, January 9 Reo Room	
6:30 p.m.	MSPA Flock Grant Winners Presentations <i>Winner(s) of the Flock Grant program will also share their successes and challenges with their purchases over the past year.</i>

Saturday, January 10 Cord & Reo Rooms		
	Little Lambs - Cord Room ~Ages 5-11	Young Shepherds - Reo Room ~Ages 12-18
9:45 a.m.	Getting to Know “Ewe” Welcome Activity <i>See what you have in common with other MSPA members from across the state!</i>	
10 a.m.	YQCA Instructor-Led Training <i>This session helps youth learn responsible animal care, improve livestock quality, and ensure safer food for consumers.</i> If you would like certification, please register on yqcaprogram.org before January 10.	Hitting the Lamb Carcass Target <i>Beginning with the End in Mind: As sheep producers we can proactively make decisions on animal type, production method, and appropriate marketing to generate premium lamb for consumer satisfaction.</i> <i>Join Dr. Travis Hoffman to learn more about how to pick out the best lamb carcasses for marketability in your area.</i>  
11 a.m.	Refreshment Break	
11:15 a.m.	Feed Identification <i>Learn about different types of feed in this hands-on sensory activity.</i>	YQCA Instructor-Led Training <i>This session helps youth learn responsible animal care, improve livestock quality, and ensure safer food for consumers. If you would like certification, please register on yqcaprogram.org before January 10.</i>
12 p.m.	Lunch on Your Own	

1:15 p.m.	Sheep Breeds 101 <i>Get to know new sheep breeds through this coloring activity.</i>	Biosecurity Escape Room <i>Test your problem-solving skills while learning how to prevent disease spread in livestock.</i>
2:15 p.m.	<i>Ice Cream Break</i>	
2:45 p.m.	Wool Craft - Felted Soap <i>Get creative and make your own felted soap using real wool fibers.</i>	Dystocia 101 <i>Explore the basics of lambing difficulties and how to assist safely during birth.</i>
3:30 p.m.	Introduction to Wool <i>Discover how wool is produced, processed, and used in everyday products.</i>	Lambing Simulator Practice <i>Gain hands-on experience delivering lambs using realistic simulators.</i>
4:30 p.m.	<i>Refreshment Break</i>	
5 p.m.	Cuts of Lamb Identification <i>Learn to recognize and name the various retail cuts of lamb with hands-on models.</i>	Flock Grant & Youth Scholarship Presentations <i>Winners of the Flock Grant and Scholarship program will share their journey so far within the sheep industry.</i>
6:30 p.m.	Sub & Pizza Pool Party - Crowne Plaza Hotel Pool <i>Join your friends for a good time while your family attends the Annual Banquet. Bring your swimsuits and basketballs! The cost is \$10, and tickets <u>MUST</u> be purchased in advance and will be collected.</i>	

Sunday, January 11 Cord & Reo Rooms		
	Little Lambs - Cord Room ~Ages 5-11	Young Shepherds - Reo Room ~Ages 12-18
9 a.m.	Junior Quiz Bowl Contest <i>Compete in teams of four. Come with a team, or facilitators will help you find a team.</i>	Master Shepherd Competition <i>Older youth teams will tackle real-life sheep scenarios, problem-solve, and present their solutions to a panel of judges.</i>
11 a.m.	<i>Quiz Bowl & Master Shepherd Awards at Brunch</i>	